

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4997

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T CAIRO 6667

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG XF

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN VIEWS ON QUADRIpartite MEETING

1. WHEN MEETING WITH FAHMY, JULY 6, I ASKED HIM ABOUT GOE VIEWS ON QUADRIpartite MEETING. FAHMY RESPONDED THAT THE PALESTINIANS, MEANING ARAFAT AND THE PLO, HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN URGING IT. FOR TACTICAL REASONS FAHMY HAD RESPONDED GOE HAS NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE, BUT WANTS SOME CLARIFICATION ABOUT WHAT SUCH A MEETING IS INTENDED TO ACHIEVE. KHADDAM, WHEN APPRISED BY ARAFAT OF GOE POSITION, HAD PASSED INFORMATION TO JORDANIANS, BUT HAD DONE SO IN MANNER SUGGESTING GOE IS PUSHING SUCH A CONFERENCE. ZAID RIFAI, ACCORDING TO GOE INFORMATION, HAS EVER SINCE BEEN ECHOING THIS THEME.

2. IN FACT, FAHMY INDICATED, GOE IS TEpid ON THE IDEA. HE HAD REMINDED THE PALESTINIANS THAT THEY HAVE COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE SYRIANS. THE SYRIANS HAVE SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE JORDANIANS. IN THIS SITUATION, FAHMY ALLEGEDLY POINTED OUT, THE PALESTINIANS ARE ALREADY IN TOUCH WITH THE

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JORDANIANS THROUGH THE SYRIANS. IF THE

PALESTINIANS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE RESULTS OF THE COORDINATION WITH THE SYRIANS ARE NIL AND EFFORTS THROUGH THAT CHANNEL TO CONTACT THE JORDANIANS ARE EQUALLY SO, THEN THERE MIGHT BE VALUE TO SUCH A CONFERENCE. THE PALESTINIANS HAVE EQUIVOCATED ON GIVING ANY FIRM REPLY, BUT STILL WANT A CONFERENCE. QADDOUMI IS SCHEDULED MEET WITH FAHMY JULY 8 AND FAHMY STATED HE WILL TAKE THAT SAME POSITION WITH HIM. FAHMY INDICATED THAT HE COULD NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF A QUADIPARTITE MEETING AT SOME HIGH LEVEL ARAB CONFERENCE.

3. COMMENT: ABOVE IS EGYPTIAN VERSION OF EVENTS. WHAT COMES THROUGH CLEARLY IS EGYPTIAN DISGRUNTLEMENT ABOUT SYRIAN-JORDANIAN COORDINATION AGREEMENT AND APPARENT PALESTINIAN RESORTING TO SYRIAN GOOD OFFICES IN ESTABLISHING A DIALOGUE WITH JORDANIANS. SO FAR AS PALESTINIANS ARE CONCERNED, GOE CONSIDERS IT HAS PLACED ITSELF IN TACTICALLY SOUND POSITION, YET ONE IN WHICH SPECIAL QUADRIpartite MEETING NOT LIKELY EVOLVE SOON.
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